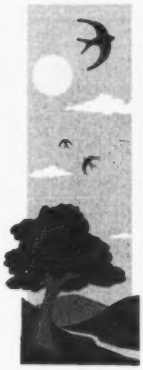
2007 Annual Report

Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory
Council



Prince Edward Island
Environmental
Advisory Council

11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Honourable George Webster
Minister of Environment, Energy & Forestry
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Mr. Webster:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherra Profit

Sherra Profit
Chair

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Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Secretarial services for the Council are provided by staff of the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Section 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that:

The Council shall:

(a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister Responsible for the Environment;
(b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on matters referred to it by him or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to activities in relation to the Provincial Conservation Strategy.

4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.

5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.

6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.

7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.

8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.

9. To advise the Minister on such matters as he may direct.

10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under Subsection 4(2)(b) of the Act.

General Comments

The Environmental Advisory Council had a busy year in 2007, with a diverse agenda. Council began the year with 12 members. Emmerson McMillan completed his term in March and Sherra Profit completed her term in August. Gwen Wyand replaced Stan Campbell as the representative for the Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities.

Council reported to the Hon. Jamie Ballem, Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry until June 12, 2007, at which time the Hon. George Webster was appointed Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry.

Council had ten regular meetings during 2007. In addition, a number of special meetings of various subcommittees of Council were held, including the Environmental Awards, Science Fair and Watershed Subcommittees.

Council endeavored to keep abreast of new developments and issues, and was fortunate to have knowledgeable people make presentations on some of these issues. A list of speakers and their topics of discussion is presented in the table on the following page.

Meeting	*Guests/Speakers*	*Issues Discussed*
January	Daryl Guignion, Biology Professor University of Prince Edward Island	Watershed Management on PEI
April	Gary Schneider	Model Forest Macphail Woods
June	Rob Sharkie	Trout River Watershed - Tour
September	Environmental Award Winners and Guests	
December	Kate McDonald and Leslie Malone ECO-PEI	PEI Energy Update

Issues

During the year, the Council members discussed many environmental issues, some of which it dealt with in some detail. These are listed below:

We are all downstream We are all upstream We are all part of a watershed: A Report on the Public Consultations on Managing Land and Water on a Watershed Basis

In October of 2006, the Minister asked the EAC members if they would be willing to take on the task of a Prince Edward Island Watershed Subcommittee which would include public consultations on "managing land and water on a watershed basis." The Subcommittee was co-chaired by Sherra Profit and Elmer MacDonald. Other members were Dr. Jim Kemp, Don Matheson and Dr. Don Mazer, retired UPEI professor, facilitated the consultations and assisted in preparing the report.

The Subcommittee that carried out the consultations held five public meetings across the province and heard from hundreds of Islanders including watershed volunteers, farmers, fishers and tourism operators. The Premier and Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry released the report on April 25, 2007. The report made 43 recommendations under six broad categories: Governance on a Watershed Basis; Policies, Regulations and Programs; Education/Awareness; Research and Technical Support; Organization and Structure; and Funding.

St. Teresa's Consolidated Environmental Award

In the 2006/07 school year, teacher Patrick Ross and students in his grade 5/6 class at St. Teresa's Consolidated School undertook a project to reduce their school's impact on the environment. Students identified key aspects of their school's environmental impact and divided into four teams - Paper, Water, Heat and Electricity - to take action on conserving resources. The students' action promoted environmental awareness in their school, home and community.

Inspired by this class, the Environmental Advisory Council created the St. Teresa's Environmental School Challenge. Schools that take on similar environmental projects or that develop their own environmental initiatives will be considered for this award. The first award is planned for presentation at the 2008 Environment Awards Ceremony.

Other Items

Other topics that were discussed were:

- Watershed Management
- Climate Change
- Wind Energy
- Macphail Woods
- Deforestation
- Buffer Zones
- Landfill Sites
- Construction and Demolition Sites
- Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)
- Pesticides
- Fishing on PEI
- Row Crops
- Crop Rotation
- Honey Bees
- Soil Erosion
- Car Pooling
- Upton Farm
- Alternate Land Use Services Program (ALUS)
- Nitrates in Groundwater
- *Environmental Protection Act*
- Cardigan Fish Hatchery
- Trout River
- *Agricultural Crop Rotation Act*
- Energy Efficiency

2007 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. In 2007, the Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of $80, $50 and $30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2007 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

Senior Category:

1st Sara Henderson, Westisle Composite High
- *Fuel for the Future*

2nd Mitchell Gallant, Charlottetown Rural
- *Fruits and Inflammation*

Intermediate Category:

1st Jonathan Harmen, East Wiltshire
- *Troubled Waters*

2nd Alex Fitzpatrick, Souris Consolidated
- *Hydrogen: The Fuel of the Future*

3rd William Ablett, Ecole Francois Buote
- *La Solution CO2*

Junior Category:

1st Madison Lewis, West Royalty Elementary
- *Which Aquifer Do You Prefer?*

2nd Jordan Hambly, Glen Stewart Elementary
- *Solar Energy*

3rd Victoria Trotter, Glen Stewart Elementary
- *Global Warming, Melting Ice and Effects on PEI*

Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In September, Awards were presented by Lieutenant Governor Barbara A. Hagerman and the Hon. George Webster to the following:

Patrick Ross's Grade 5/6 class at St. Teresa's Consolidated School:

Last year, Grade 5/6 students at St. Teresa's undertook an environment project to reduce their school's impact on the environment. The students identified four key aspects of daily practices in the school where small changes could net significant savings for our environment. The class then organized into four teams in take action in each of those areas: Team Paper, Team Heat, Team Water and Team Electricity. The Grade 5/6 had a positive influence on their families, teachers and fellow students. One of the nominators, a teacher at the school, wrote: "We learned that small things add up to significant changes! As a staff, we are all more conscious of our practices, attitudes and efforts to demonstrate responsible environment management. We believe the Grade 5/6 class is deserving of recognition as they have become a catalyst for change in our school."

Dave Biggar

Mr. Biggar is remembered as having been the greatest environmental advocate in Prince County over the last two decades. Mr. Biggar, who passed away this year, was the driving force behind stream enhancement work on the Mill and Trout Rivers, even giving up his plumbing business during the summers to work in the streams. In his later years, Mr. Biggar concentrated his stream enhancement efforts on the Trout River, and over the years, transformed the river into a destination for many anglers. To ensure public access, he got permission from landowners along the river and constructed a wheelchair accessible trail. He also secured funds for the "Cabin," an interpretive centre from which to base activities and make the public more aware of conservation initiatives. Among his many other achievements, Mr. Biggar was involved in developing a semi-natural rearing system for salmon, which formed the basis for the initial success of the salmon fishery; he established one of the first non-provincial wildlife management areas in the province; he promoted a fish stocking and tagging program that demonstrated the success of semi-natural rearing of brook trout; and he supported organic farmers in Prince Edward Island. Mr. Biggar inspired others to take action and worked with and encouraged several groups in Prince County, sharing his expertise and often loaning them experienced staff and equipment to get started.

Waldron Leard

Mr. Leard is a long-time environmental advocate who has made protecting the environment part of his everyday life. But what really separates him is the work he has done in the development of his website - Eastern Kings, PEI, Meeting Place. Each day, Mr. Leard takes photos of environmental scenes that serve as a daily record of the natural ecology in Eastern Kings. Updated daily, the website includes pages on wildlife, outdoor activities and the land and sea. It is a forum where Mr. Leard spreads positive environmental messages on topics such as recycling, littering, wildlife and environmental stewardship. One example is the message on the front page of the website: "A child once said the Seven Wonders of the World were to see, to touch, to feel, to hear, to taste, to laugh and to love. See the colours, touch only with your eyes, feel the wind, listen to the waves and taste the salt air. Create sunshine with your joy, smiles and laughter. Show your love for earth and fellow man by conserving, preserving and protecting."

Gary Fournier:

Mr. Fournier is well-known for his work with the Winter River Environmental Committee. The group is dedicated to preserve and protect the Winter River watershed which is the source of water for a large portion of the Island population - all of those in the greater Charlottetown area. Mr. Fournier was instrumental in launching the Winter River Restoration Project. Over the years, he has led stream enhancement initiatives and worked to enhance the Hardy Mill Pond area with walking paths, a revitalized boat ramp and a wheelchair accessible observation and fishing platform. Working with students on summer projects, Mr. Fournier has inspired these young people to care for their environment. He has also been very successful in engaging the community through forums such as Winter River Activity Days which feature canoe orienteering challenges, fly fishing lessons, skates at Hardy Mill Pond and other outdoor activities.

Southern Kings Consolidated School

Students and staff at Southern Kings Consolidated School were recognized for their work in developing the Southern Kings Nature Trail. Opened last June, the 2.2-kilometre trail serves as a unique outdoor classroom and a year-round exercise and entertainment facility for outdoor activities such as cross-country running, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The project involved many hours of planning and a great deal of physical labour to build the trail. The staff, students and parents at Southern Kings garnered the support of local landowners, the Beck and Hicken families, whose property borders the school, and built partnerships with the community, non-profit and conservation groups and government. The school community took ownership of this project. That sense of ownership resulted in greater involvement, an increase in knowledge and greater understanding of our environment.

Appendix A
Environmental Advisory Council
2007 Membership

Ms. Sherra Profit, Chair (to August)
Summerside

Mr. Elmer MacDonald, Vice-chair
(Acting Chair, September - December)
Borden Carlton

Mr. Emmerson McMillan (to March)
Ascension

Joanne LeBlanc-Arsenault
Union Corner

Gwen Wyand
Federation of PEI Municipalities

Ms. Leslie Cudmore
Charlottetown

Dr. James Kemp (Acting Vice-chair,
September - December)
Argyle Shore

Mr. Don Matheson
Oyster Bed Bridge

Mr. Murray Cook
Stanhope

Mr. Patrick Birtwistle
Stratford

Mr. Bruce MacNeill
Beach Point

Mr. Alan Hicken
South Pinette